

## HOW TO PROTECT YOUR MAIL FROM THIEVES

Every day, the U.S. Postal Service safely and efficiently delivers millions of checks, credit cards and other valuable items. Unfortunately, such items of value are also attractive to thieves. Here's what you can do to protect your mail from thieves:

- Never send cash or coins in the mail. Use checks or money orders.

- Promptly remove mail from your mailbox after delivery, especially if you're expecting checks, credit cards, or other negotiable items. If you won't be home when the items are expected, ask a friend or neighbor to pick up your mail.

- Have your local post office hold your mail while you're on vacation, or absent from your home for a long period of time.

- If you don't receive a check or other valuable mail you're expecting, contact the issuing agency immediately.

- If you change your address, immediately notify your post office and anyone with whom you do business via mail.

- Always deposit your mail in a mail slot at your local post office, or hand it to your letter carrier.

Locked mailboxes can be purchased at your local hardware store or online from Postal Products at [www.postalproducts.com](http://www.postalproducts.com). Make sure that the mailbox you choose has the U.S.P.S. approved sticker on it. They feature a lockable compartment for incoming mail and a flap to protect contents against weather. Choose a box that has a large enough slot to accommodate your normal daily mail volume. Remember, the U.S.P.S. neither opens a locked box nor accepts a key for this purpose.

If you believe your mail was stolen, report it immediately to your local postmaster at 100 First Street, Los Altos (800) 275-8777. You'll be asked to file a formal complaint using PS Form 1616, Mail Theft and Vandalism Complaint. By analyzing information collected from the form, postal inspectors may determine whether your problem is isolated or part of a larger mail theft problem in your neighborhood — and it may help inspectors locate and apprehend the thieves.



## LAH EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

*July 7, 2005 - London Calling: "...cell and land line service is down."*

When the London bombing occurred, early news reported that the phones and cell phones became overloaded with traffic. In the 2001 9/11 tragedy, the cell phone facilities in New York were actually part of the loss. In the 2004 tsunami in South East Asia, phones were non-existent or limited in many areas. In the 2003 Cedar Fire in San Diego County, many cell installations and phone lines were damaged or destroyed. Last year's hurricane disaster in Florida and other states caused communication facility failures.

In these cases, amateur or "ham" radio operators jumped in to support communication needs for public and services agencies - even from a remote island in South East Asia. A civic official in a remote Northern California community quipped to the committee chair recently: "The ham radio operators? Hey, they 'saved our bacon' when we had a failure of cell and land communications during a major storm."

In Los Altos Hills, the Town's Emergency Communications Committee - a volunteer team appointed by the Town Council of licensed amateur radio operators - works with the Town's staff and council to support communication needs as part of the Town's Emergency Preparation plan.

The committee, chaired by Dru Anderson, KG6LAD, welcomes interest by residents in the amateur radio function for community emergency communications support. She can be contacted at [druandern@aol.com](mailto:druandern@aol.com). Many of the committee members - 14 regular members and 4 associates - also are trained CERT (Citizens Emergency Response Team) members. All regular members have DSW (Disaster Service Worker) cards, required in the event of emergency response.

The Committee operates and trains on the Town's repeater, W6LAH, and meets weekly on net, and monthly for both training workshops and business meetings at either the Town's Emergency Operation Center (Heritage House) or Town Hall facilities.

## Town Newsletter - Statement of Purpose

To communicate current issues, services, and activities in Los Altos Hills to the residents of the Town and to facilitate, encourage and improve interaction between the residents and Town government. The 2005 Newsletter will be published quarterly in the months of March, June, September, and December. Deadline for the next issue is October 31, 2005.

Internet Address: [www.losaltoshills.ca.gov](http://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov)

### About Our Publication

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